

CSAF survey ready to launch

By Master Sgt. Jim Greeley  
Air Force Print News

The Air Force chief of staff wants to know what changes Air Force people want in their organizations, and what they think of the leaders they work for, from the squadron level through higher headquarters.

To that end officials will launch the 2002 Chief of Staff survey Jan. 22. The survey is an avenue directly to the top.

“This is a great opportunity to provide direct feedback about how we’re doing in our organizations,” said Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff. “To sustain the world’s pre-eminent aerospace force, we must ensure excellence in the work environment for everyone. The survey provides me, and leaders at all levels in your chain of command, valuable information.”

The survey was slated to start in October, but was delayed by operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

Developers have gone to great lengths to make the survey fast and easy to take. The Web-based survey will take about 30 to 45 minutes, and has about 100 questions in three major areas: organizational climate and leadership, A-76 competitive sourcing and major command-specific questions.

The survey will be available for you to take during the entire seven-week period.

Honesty is exactly what the Jumper wants. “I expect you to give direct and candid feedback,” Jumper said. “That’s why the survey is anonymous, and that’s why the questions on the survey are intentionally hard-hitting.”

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Survival training

Tech. Sgt. David Anderson, a Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape instructor at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine teaches flight nurses and aeromedical evacuation technicians basic fire building skills as part of their survival training in an austere environment.

Air Force combats shortage of scientists, engineers

By Tech. Sgt. Ron Tull  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force Materiel Command may lose most of its current employees, including scientists and engineers, in the next few years.

According to AFMC’s commander, Gen. Lester L. Lyles, the potential shortage is due to the retirement eligibility of nearly 70 percent of its civilian workforce. The problem is compounded, Lyles said, by very low retention rates.

Retention rates for military scientists and engineers have been very

low, as civilian industries call to them with financial and quality of life incentives.

“This is very much like the problems we’ve had over the years with pilot retention, enlisted retention and recruiting,” he said. “In this case it’s multi-dimensional because we have a civilian part of our workforce that we are concerned about, and the military bluesuit part of the workforce is having the identical problem,” Lyles said.

Lyles recently participated in a summit meeting at the Pentagon with Dr. James G. Roche, secretary of the Air Force, Gen. John P. Jumper, Air

Force chief of staff, and other experts to discuss the challenge.

“Technology has always been at the forefront for the U. S. Air Force,” Lyles said. “We want to make sure we have the people resources to continue working and developing those systems we’ll need for the Air Force of the 21st Century.”

The initial approach to the problem will emphasize retention bonuses, professional pay and accession pay, Lyles said. Other financial appeals may include paying off student loans and paying for further education.





The *Discovery* is published by *Prime Time Inc.*, a private firm in no way connected with the United States Air Force, under exclusive contract with Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

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Everything in this publication is edited, prepared and provided by the 311th Human Systems Wing Public Affairs Office of Brooks Air Force Base. Material for the *Discovery* should be typewritten, double-spaced and submitted to 311HSW/PA, 2510 Kennedy Circle, Suite 116, Brooks AFB, TX 78235-5120 by noon the Wednesday prior to the week of publication. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. Articles may also be submitted by fax by calling 536-3235 or by e-mail.

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to: [Cerise.Fenton@brooks.af.mil](mailto:Cerise.Fenton@brooks.af.mil) or to: [Discovery@brooks.af.mil](mailto:Discovery@brooks.af.mil).

The *Discovery* is published every other week on Friday. Contact the editor at 536-5141 for more information.

#### Discovery advertising

Deadline for display advertising is noon the Friday preceding the publication date. To advertise in the *Discovery*, call 675-4500 or send advertising copy to *Prime Time Military Newspapers*, P.O. Box 27040, San Antonio, Texas 78227.

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# AFMC people deliver combat capability— *A look back at 2001*

By Gen. Lester Lyles

Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

One of the distinct blessings of being the leader of a military unit is the privilege of recognizing your people for their sacrifices, dedication and enthusiasm under extraordinarily difficult conditions. Never is this more appropriate than at the end of a difficult and demanding year.

As President Bush so aptly put it recently, "The brave men and women of our military are rewriting the rules of war with new technologies and old values like courage and honor."

As commander of Air Force Materiel Command, headquartered at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, personally recognizing your people can be incredibly difficult when there are more than 80,000 military and civilian workers at locations worldwide. I don't often get the chance to tell people face-to-face how impressed I am by their daily devotion to duty and professionalism, especially in light of the tragedies and challenges we've faced as a nation since Sept. 11.

That's why I'm telling you what a great job the people of Brooks are doing for our country. It is my hope that by highlighting some key accomplishments, everyone will have a better appreciation for the men and women of this command who serve their country and communities so proudly.

Every day, you unsung heroes are living up to the challenges that come with supporting America's warfighters, and you are doing it very well. In many ways, operations in Afghanistan have been a proving ground for the innovative weaponry provided by AFMC people.

Every sortie launched, every target confirmed, every bomb dropped and every radio contact completed in support of our war on terrorism happens because AFMC people - charged with implementing an annual budget of more than \$40 billion - continue to anticipate and meet the needs of America's warfighters.

AFMC has a responsibility for, and a commitment to, managing the research, development, acquisition and sustainment of every weapon system in the United States Air Force. We develop, test and field those systems to keep America's warfighters capable of defending freedom anywhere, anytime.

And it's the members of AFMC who provide the vision and technology for this country to win present and future wars. In fact, our scientists and engineers are right now fighting a war 20 years in the future, developing and understanding technologies so we can overcome threats that are yet to come.

In today's wartime environment, we continue to sustain and improve incredibly complex systems for the warfighter that are being used by operational forces in Afghanistan. It's an amazing collection of technologies, munitions and weapons that make it possible for Air Force warfighters to shape and dominate an unconventional conflict like the one we face against terrorism.

Even though AFMC people are not necessarily on the front lines, their courage and honor are evident in the way they are giving America's warfighters greater capabilities.

At Hill AFB, Utah, Air Force Ammunition Reserve Team members have distributed nearly 4 million pounds of precision-guided bombs and saved \$1.5 billion by refurbishing and reconfiguring these munitions.

For the first time in combat, America's warfighters are dropping cluster bombs contained in wind corrected munitions dispensers against Taliban forces in Afghanistan with devastating effects. People at Eglin AFB's Air Armament Center in Florida developed a guidance kit for cluster munitions in half the time expected at one quarter the cost. The weapons also exceeded all accuracy and performance requirements.

At Robins AFB, Ga., workers reduced the number of C-5 transports under repair by 26 percent, getting more planes back to the airlifters who need them. They also increased the mission capable rate of the C-5, now more than 30 years old, by 15 percent.

The command's Air Force Research Laboratory, headquartered at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio supported the discovery of a new high-density nitrogen propellant increasing rocket and spacecraft propulsion.

Edwards AFB, Calif., home to the Air Force Flight Test Center, celebrated 50 years of a unique role forging aerospace power.

Edwards is designated as a national aerospace historic site for its work in pioneering jet engine propulsion to breaking the sound barrier to piloting aircraft to the edges of outer space. Edwards people continue today to "push the envelope," as they test the Air Force's F-22 air dominance fighter, now in low-rate initial production.

Specialists from the 311th Human Systems Wing at Brooks analyzed Pentagon air samples after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack, and activated the Brooks' portion of the Center for Disease Control's National Laboratory Response Network. In addition, wing experts accelerated deployment of Ruggedized Advanced Pathogen Identification Device (RAPID(tm)) biological agent detection teams and the development of support components.

Personnel from the Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold AFB, Tenn., accomplished the first-ever successful free-flight scramjet engine launch in the center's ballistic impact test facility. This test demonstrated that using a ballistic range to fire such engines is a money-saving alternative to testing a scramjet-powered vehicle while in flight.

The 377th Air Base Wing, Kirtland AFB, N.M., sent a 12-member medical team to Ecuador on a Jungle Humanitarian Civic Assistance mission to treat 1,700 indigenous patients and hone team members' wartime operation skills.

The Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center, at Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz., processed 101 aircraft valued at more than \$887 million into storage, withdrew 113 aircraft valued at \$475 million, and reclaimed and shipped 18,896 parts valued at \$740 million to fulfill DoD needs. In addition, AMARC teams accelerated the delivery of 123 reclaimed aircraft parts to deployed forces supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.



## Capability

Continued from Page 2

At Hanscom AFB, Mass., Electronic Systems Center personnel stood up an aerospace operations center in support of the North American Aerospace Defense Command mission and America's homeland defense. Along with five other key control centers, this AOC is responsible for maintaining air sovereignty in peacetime and defending North America during wartime.

The Aeronautical Systems Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, established the Aging Aircraft Systems Program Office, which will develop and implement a comprehensive plan to sustain the Air Force's aging aircraft fleet. These efforts ensure that mission needs will continue to be met by today's aircraft even as next-generation airframes make the transition from the drawing board to the active Air Force inventory.

ESC specialists in the Standard Sys-

tems Group at Gunter Annex, Maxwell AFB, Ala., delivered and set up 660 computers in the new offices of Pentagon workers displaced by the September terrorist attack, allowing these key people to continue performing their duties.

At Tinker AFB, Okla., Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center troops successfully launched and detonated a conventional air-launched cruise missile, the AGM-86D Penetrator, against a simulated hardened, deeply-buried bunker. OC-ALC people accomplished another great technical feat by completing the KC-135 Stratotanker's compass, radar and global positioning system modernization ahead of schedule, keeping the refueler's flight systems on the cutting edge of technology.

Whether it's Air Force logistics centers rebuilding and repairing engines and modernizing aircraft capabilities, or test centers developing a new gen-

eration of bunker-busting bombs, Air Force Materiel Command people are building a legacy for the future as rich in technology as the legacy we inherited from our predecessors - people like Orville and Wilbur Wright.

Many Americans may not realize that in only two years we'll celebrate 100 years of powered flight, recognizing the Wright Brothers first flight on Dec. 17, 1903. From their Wright Flyer to the Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle and Joint Strike Fighter, these advances were made possible by people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and say "I'm going to get it done no matter what."

If you want to measure the dedication, patriotism and industrial might that AFMC people bring to this nation, simply turn on your TV and watch the news.

We, as part of the Air Force team, have clearly shown that we make a difference. I thank each of you for your



Lyles

tremendous efforts, and I look forward to another fantastic year for Air Force Materiel Command. God bless the United States of America.



### January Enlisted Promotions

The following Brooks enlisted members will be promoted in January.

**To Chief Master Sergeant:**  
**Kenneth Darnier**  
311th Air Base Group  
**Eduardo Martinez**  
311th Human Systems Wing  
**Voreda Slone**  
U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

**To Master Sergeant:**  
**Larry Watkins**  
*Air Force Medical Support Agency*

**To Technical Sergeant:**  
**William Holtfort**  
AFMSA  
**Hector Navarro**  
311th Air Base Group  
**Ronald Sankeralli**  
USAFSAM

**Judith Watson**  
311th ABG  
**To Staff Sergeant:**  
**Blanca Rainey**  
311th ABG  
**Paul Tyner**  
68th Information Operations Squadron  
**Kris Williams**  
AFMSA

**To Airman First Class:**  
**Teresa Berry**  
311th Medical Squadron  
**Angelica Cecilio**  
311th ABG  
**Anthony Meadows**  
311th ABG  
**Cory Ray**  
311th Communications Squadron  
**Mark Santiago**  
311th MDS

We **SALUTE** you!



## Mentoring can pay off

**By Master Sgt. Georgia Royster**  
*BrooksCareer Assistance Advisor*

Why are some people promoted to each grade quicker and others face promotion pass-over year after year? Why are some people prepared and ready for an awards board and others are a nervous wreck?

An obvious answer might be that some people are naturally sharper than others.

Personal motivation and ability play a critical part, but there's more to the story.

People have shown that motivation, determination, a high level of performance on the job, and being willing to invest time and effort to do what is necessary to make them competitive for promotion and awards helps.

However, fast burners usually have a mentor or supervisor to help them learn how the promotion system works, and to help them map out a

strategy for career development toward further advancement and beyond.

A successful career is usually a team effort involving personal commitment and outside support.

It is important that supervisors, civilians, enlisted and officers, know how to help their people compete successfully for promotion and awards.

We as senior leaders should take time out of our busy schedule to recognize and take personal interest in our people.

Most importantly we all play a part as members of Team Brooks. Let's help our people be successful in learning how to reach their goals, personally and professionally.

Increased promotion rates, pay and allowances, and a continued focus on quality of life issues makes this a great time to be in the Air Force.

For more information on career assistance call 536-5528.

### December Enlisted Promotions

The following Brooks enlisted members were promoted in December.

**To Senior Master Sergeant:**  
**Brian Danahey**  
*68th Information Operations Squadron*

**To Master Sergeant:**  
**James Green**  
*311th Air Base Group*  
**Aaron Sinclair**  
*311th Human Systems Wing*

**To Technical Sergeant:**  
**Shon Baker**  
*Air Force Medical Support Agency*  
**Gregg Brownlee**  
*U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine*  
**Stephen Bullock**  
*68th IOS*  
**Raymond Eisermann**  
*311th Medical Squadron*

**Brian Lawrence**  
USAFSAM  
**To Senior Airman:**  
**Christopher Doriott**  
*311th Communications Squadron*  
**Tiffany Foston**  
*311th HSW*  
**Jesus Ontiveros**  
*311th MDS*  
**Ernest Regalado**  
*68th IOS*  
**Shakira Ramos**  
*Air Force Research Laboratory*

**To Airman 1st Class:**  
**Hytham Elsaleh**  
*68th IOS*  
**Boris Filitsyan**  
*68th IOS*  
**Pierre Nelson**  
USAFSAM





# AFMC bases receive \$2.5 million in YOFAM holiday cheer

By Capt. Jeff Sandrock  
AFMC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — Air Force Materiel Command bases can now launch their latest quality of life initiatives thanks to \$2.5 million presented to Year of the Family office experts Dec. 21.

Gen. Lester Lyles, AFMC commander, carved out this piece of its annual operating budget, dedicating the funds to improving quality of life for Air Force people at all AFMC bases.

“This is the long-awaited \$2.5 million release for Fiscal Year 2002 YOFAM money that General Lyles indicated early in the program,” said Lt. Col. Dave Arreola, AFMC Year of the Family Quality of Life Office chief.

“This is a great continuation of our YOFAM program,” said Lyles.

New YOFAM initiatives include projects like upgrading parks, fitness facilities, day care facilities and Airman’s closets, said Linda Hollen, an AFMC YOFAM specialist.

The newly approved list also supports activities such as remodeling, recreational activities and educational classes, said Arreola.

“Every base submitted what they wanted to fund,” he said. “We couldn’t fund everything, as you might imagine, but we were able to fund their priorities, and submit basically in a prioritized order.”

“Early on, General Lyles defined the Air Force family as the total workforce. So we’re looking at active-duty military members, families, civilians, con-

tractors... and let’s not forget our retirees, our guard people, and reservists,” said Arreola.

“I’m very appreciative of people like Lt. Col. Dave Arreola and his team helping to lead this effort, to make sure we are doing the right thing to support our people,” Lyles said.

“I can’t tell you how much gratitude I feel for what they do.”

Though the \$2.5 million is aimed at improving the quality of life at all AFMC bases, the commander is not content to stop there, indicating there is still much to be accomplished through YOFAM programs.

After presenting the \$2.5 million check, Lyles said, “that’s still not enough. There are lots of things that need to be done.”

The following programs were ap-

proved for funding at Brooks:

A sound system for the club and fitness center, Honor Guard uniforms, lockers and vault, refrigerators and icemakers in the noncommissioned officer suites and furniture for the break room.

Other AFMC bases requested and received funding for projects such as refurbishing picnic and recreation areas or improving playgrounds.

Some also requested outdoor recreation upgrades, such as the in-line skate track that is being built at Brooks.

More information on the project is available through a link to the YOFAM website from the Brooks homepage at: [www.brooks.af.mil](http://www.brooks.af.mil).

Or, contact the Brooks Family Support Center at 536-2444.

## YOFAM enters second year flying high on success

By Capt. Jennifer Goldthwaite  
AFMC Year of the Family Office

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) - As Air Force Materiel Command’s Year of the Family initiative heads into its second year, experts continue focusing on enhancing people’s quality of life.

When Gen. Lester Lyles, AFMC commander, designated 2001 AFMC’s Year of the Family, he envisioned increasing people’s awareness of existing quality of life services and programs and developing new projects and programs to further enhance quality of life.

Early on, he defined the AFMC family as a group of people working toward a common goal, with a mutual regard and concern for one another.

This definition includes the total work force - military members and Defense Department civilians, whether married or single, their family members and retirees.

Lyles and the other command leadership showed their dedication to improving work force quality of life by establishing a headquarters YOFAM office and funding more than 130 new projects and programs centers submitted for approval.

In less than a year, \$6.1 million has been distributed to installations for YOFAM projects and programs.

One YOFAM-funded project at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., was for a community park. And according to James Helms of the Eglin Family Support Center, the community aspect rings literally true as Eglin families will build it.

“The park was developed from children’s artwork, and the children also competed in naming it,” Helms said. “This idea is a community effort, bringing families together for a common cause.”

The park will also be used for various functions to include squadron picnics and commander’s calls and Helms said it’s an excellent example of the type of projects YOFAM funding supports.

At Hill Air Force Base, Utah, YOFAM helped people with serious medical problems, according to Liesel Woodard

of the base family support center. She cited base leaders using YOFAM dollars to purchase a cholesterol machine for the Hill Health and Wellness Center as an example.

“During a health fair last April, we used that machine to test hundreds of base employees - military members, retirees and civilians,” Woodard said. “Several civilian workers had test results that indicated high cholesterol counts and our nurses suggested they contact their medical provider.”

“As it turned out, a couple of the individuals had other life-threatening medical conditions they weren’t aware of before our HAWC health fair. This free health screening is proving to be very beneficial to individuals in our community.”

A new initiative from the relocation office at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., is family support center workers giving welcome kits to first-term airmen.

The kits include a local-area map, laundry soap, grooming items, a can opener, towels, silverware, a sewing kit, a YOFAM T-shirt, booklets such as “Starting Your Military Career” and so on.

“These kits help our young airmen get settled quickly, and therefore facilitate mission readiness,” said Ruthie McMeans, Tinker relocation manager.

“They are also a simple and small way of saying thank you. We try to make our new airmen feel welcome and let them know we care.”

These are just a few examples of YOFAM’s impact within AFMC, according to Lt. Col. David Arreola, AFMC YOFAM office director. But not all YOFAM activity is happening at the installation level.

He said YOFAM is an integral part

of leadership’s focus on people at the AFMC headquarters level.

“YOFAM and quality of life issues constantly remind everyone of the value we place on our human resources, both in the short-term and the long-term,” Arreola said.

“YOFAM had a major impact on the AFMC Strategic Plan, and for the first time, the plan includes issues like work force health, organizational assistance, labor and management

relations along with mental health counseling for civilians.

In general, the headquarters YOFAM office keeps the focus on what the command is doing and can do in the future to improve the quality of life for our AFMC family.”

Arreola said YOFAM has been a topic of newspaper articles, commander’s calls, outdoor events, ceremonies and town hall meetings throughout 2001 and will continue to be the driving force

for quality-of-life improvements in 2002.

Military members, civilians, spouses, family members and retirees at each installation are becoming more aware of quality-of-life services and benefits offered.

“YOFAM has become a vehicle to let people know what services are available at each location and has also become an avenue for people to make suggestions for quality-of-life improvements,” Arreola said.

“Within the command are some very creative people working on ideas that will further assist our civilian and military members and their families.”

Arreola recalled one center investigated using their auditorium as a base theater, while another turned

their chapel into a childcare facility. People at Eglin initiated a “Chicken Soup House” for children with minor illnesses, and officials at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., offered parents one free week of childcare.

And with funding help, Arreola said everything from new family support center classes like “Dads 101” and “The Making of a Stable Family,” to dormitory renovations and temporary living facility improvements have been implemented.

“The YOFAM program is accomplishing what the command wanted it to do,” Arreola said.

“General Lyles’ idea about how to highlight our existing people programs and how to look into new ones has proven its effectiveness. His goal has always been simple: ‘to make sure members of the AFMC family can say YOFAM made a positive impact on their lives and the lives of their loved ones.’”

This article has provided information on what YOFAM has done for some of the AFMC family.

Arreola and the rest of the AFMC YOFAM staff invite everyone to share their thoughts and ideas by calling DSN 787-0252 or call your base YOFAM point of contact.

“Someone from your YOFAM program office is always available to listen to your feedback on quality of life suggestions and concerns,” he said.

At Brooks the YOFAM point of contact is LouAnn Bueachamp at the Family Support Center. She can be reached at 536-2444 or by email at: [LouAnn.Beachamp@brooks.af.mil](mailto:LouAnn.Beachamp@brooks.af.mil).

A link to the Brooks YOFAM initiative is also available on the internet. You can access the site from the Brooks homepage by logging on to: [www.brooks.af.mil](http://www.brooks.af.mil).

Last year, YOFAM projects at Brooks included a recognition lunch for security forces personnel after the increased security posture following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and the creation of a guide outlining the various resources and services available to the base population.

The Brooks YOFAM staff has many more events planned throughout the coming year.

“YOFAM and quality of life issues constantly remind everyone of the value we place on our human resources, both in the short-term and the long-term.”

Lt. Col. David Arreola  
AFMC YOFAM office director



## Shortages

Continued from Page 1

"We're looking at better opportunities to fund individuals going to get masters degrees or PhD's in various critical engineering or scientific areas," Lyles said. "All of these things are initiatives that are on the table. Some are well on their way; some require approval and funding."

"AFMC might even benefit from expanding the Airman Enlisted Commissioning Program," Lyles said. "The key is to make sure we are giving them an opportunity to get their degrees in the techni-

cal career fields."

While the Air Force develops financial incentives to recruit and retain the best and the brightest, technology is still a big recruiting tool, Lyles said.

"The scientists and engineers I've met working in AFMC labs all agree that the Air Force is an opportunity to work with cutting edge technology and to be the world's experts on something they know will make a difference when it comes to national security," he said.

## Birthday celebration result of persistent effort

By Steve VanWert

45th Space Wing Public Affairs

In November 1983, when President Ronald Reagan signed legislation creating the national holiday celebrating the birthday of Martin Luther King, it marked the end of a highly organized lobbying effort that took 15 years to come to fruition.

It began only four days after Dr. King's assassination in Memphis, Tenn. Michigan Rep. John Conyers submitted the first legislation to commemorate King's birthday on April 8, 1968. Two years later, Conyers and N.Y. Rep. Shirley Chisholm resubmitted the legislation after petitions with more than 6 million signatures were submitted to Congress.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference was the primary or-

ganization collecting the signatures. They also carried out mass marches, especially one to mark the 20th anniversary of King's "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. But as the years passed, it became obvious that only a bipartisan partnership would overcome strong political opposition. Finally Indiana Rep. Katie Hall offered a compromise. In response to criticism about the holiday occurring too close to the Christmas-New Year's week, she proposed moving the observance to the third Monday of the month. The idea of a three-day weekend, plus the fact that the third Monday often follows Super Bowl Sunday, helped the measure gain acceptance.

There were also arguments concerning money. Costs associated with lost services on the King holiday were estimated at \$18 million for the fed-

eral government. The estimated total cost was an astronomical \$8 billion for the government and private sector combined.

Finally, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the legislation by a 338-90 vote, making Martin Luther King Jr. Day a national observance on the third Monday of January, beginning in 1986. After much arguing, the U.S. Senate also approved the measure by 78-22. All the hard work had culminated in the creation of a unique holiday, neither specifically patriotic nor religious. It's become a day to honor not just the man, but also his principles; not just the memory of his leadership, but also the enormity of his dream.

Steve.VanWert@Patrick.af.mil

## Tax Tips

### E-file for free at the Brooks Tax Center

By The Internal Revenue Service electronic filing or e-file program is a quick, easy, and accurate alternative to filing paper income tax returns.

The Brooks Tax Center will offer this service and tax assistance regarding simple federal and state income tax returns free of charge. Eligible beneficiaries include active duty military, reservists, retirees, and their dependents.

Income tax assistance is one of the benefits provided through the Air Force Personal Legal Assistance Program administered by the 311th Human Systems Wing Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

According to the IRS, the following are just some of the benefits of e-filing your tax return:

**Increased Accuracy:** The chance of getting an error notice

from the IRS is reduced significantly because the software will not process the income tax return if it has an error.

**Increased Security:** A direct link from the Brooks Tax Center to the IRS database ensures the privacy and security of personal information. With paper returns, filers run the risk of their documents being lost or possibly misfiled.

**Proof of Acceptance:** The client receives proof of timely filing through an IRS acknowledgment receipt. The IRS usually sends these acknowledgements within 48 hours after receiving an e-filing transmission. Paper returns do not offer this service.

**Faster Refunds:** Clients receive their refunds in half the time, compared to a paper return that can average 6 to 8 weeks. The Direct Deposit option even further expe-

dites obtaining refunds; some clients may see their money in as little as 10 days.

**Electronic Payment Options:** Electronic filing offers additional convenient, safe and secure electronic payment options, including electronic funds withdrawal from your bank account and credit card payment.

**Combined Federal/State Filing:** In addition to federal returns, clients can e-file their state tax returns and double the benefits from e-filing.

Last year, this program, through its volunteers, saved more than 1,000 Brooks community members in excess of \$50,000 in income tax preparation fees. Please contact your unit Volunteer Income Tax Assistor representative for more information.

The Brooks African American Cultural Association is sponsoring a Martin Luther King observance service January 17 at the Brooks Chapel from 11 a.m.-noon. Guest speaker at the service will be Col. Nathaniel Crawford, deputy command chaplain, Air Education and Training Command will be the guest speaker.

The event, free and open to the public, commemorates Doctor King's life and contributions to American society.

The civil rights leader was born January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Ga. This year's federal holiday is January 21.

The Martin Luther King observance is a prelude to Black History Month activities at Brooks slated throughout February.

The AACA will also sponsor these events. More details will follow in the January.

## The final reunion for Brooks Field Flying Cadet class 42-A

By Rick Guidry

Discovery Staff Writer

Some 20 members of Flying Cadet Class 42-A gathered at Brooks for their 60th and final anniversary reunion January 9. During ceremonies in Hangar 9, Brooks officials honored the class members and their families.

The original class of 115 graduated from the Army Air Forces Observer School January 9, 1942 at Brooks Field, receiving their wings from Lt. Col. Stanton Smith, base commander.

During training at Brooks, the pilots flew O-52's in support of aerial observer training.

Later, they attended different combat or tactical training schools, before reporting for aerial duty in the European and Pacific theaters.

Inside the restored hangar that they knew so well, class members accepted the heartfelt thanks of their modern day counterparts.

On behalf of Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th Human Systems

Wing commander who was away on duty, Lt. Col. Stuart Cowles, 311th HSW vice commander, read a letter from the commander to each aviator.

Dodd expressed "how very much the men and women of the 311th Human Systems Wing and the rest of Brooks appreciate the incredible service and sacrifice" the Class of 1942 "made on behalf of your country and those we serve."

Hugs, handshakes and spirited conversations took place during the emotional assembly.

Col. Jarrett Roan, reunion group president, thanked the Brooks community for what he termed their warm welcome and support.

Dodd concluded in his letter, "please let all of us salute you and your peers, the winners of the most titanic struggle between good and evil in the history of the planet. We owe you more than we can ever express, let alone repay."

John.Guidry@brooks.af.mil



Photo by SrA Brandy Bogart

Lt. Col Stuart Cowles, 311th Human Systems Wing vice commander, presents plaques to members of the Brooks Field Class 42-A during their 60th and final reunion at Hangar 9 Jan. 9. The plaques are made of wood from the original Hangar 9.



# ACTION LINE

## 536-2222



**Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd**  
311th Human Systems  
Wing commander

The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

**If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.**

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-3310
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Air Base Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	536-7000
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-1851
Civilian Pay.....	536-2823
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Base Exchange.....	533-9161
Commissary.....	536-3549
Brooks City Base Project Office.....	536-6626

### Closing Club 204



*I'd like to know what is going on with the Brooks Club being closed during lunchtime?*



Thank you for your excellent question.

Closing Club 204 for lunch was not an easy decision. We certainly hesitate to do anything to erode our quality of life. However, the move to use Sidney's as the sole lunchtime operation was forced upon us by the low patronage using Club 204 at lunch.

It essentially came down to dollars and cents, and we're not talking about a few dollars. The losses were quite significant, specifically labor.

Brooks' senior leaders were briefed at the weekly commanders' staff meetings and subsequently agreed to close the club at lunch.

Having said that, we feel that Sidney's offers the customer more choices, between the buffet and grill and the variety of foods, than Club 204 did.

We feel that applying all our forces to Sidney's will ensure that it will be the best place for lunch, but I have to admit that we are going through some growing pains.

Again, thank you for your question so as to afford other people an explanation for closing Club 204 at lunch.

### Speed limits on base



*I was wondering why there are no speed limit signs when you come on base? I've heard the speed limit is anywhere between 25 mph and 35mph on base. It would be nice to have a posted speed limit as you enter the gate.*



We appreciate you addressing the issue on speed limits. Apparently you share our same concerns, which are to drive at a lawful speed, and safety.

There is a 30 mph speed limit sign posted near the main gate on North Road. That is the maximum speed on Brooks, unless otherwise posted.

We have installed speed bumps on Pratt Drive to thwart speeders, in spite of a 15 mph posted speed limit sign, but occasionally we still need to have our patrols on the look-out for speeders in that area and along North Road.

More information is available through the Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, which is posted on the Brooks web site.





# NEWS briefs

## Martin Luther King observance

Brooks will celebrate Martin Luther King Day 2002 with a special observance ceremony Jan. 17 at the Base Chapel from 11 a.m.-noon. Chaplain Nathaniel Crawford, HQ AETC/HQ, motivational speaker and behavioral consultant will be the featured speaker. The program will also include a short program and inspirational music, and will be followed by a reception.

## Altitude test subjects

Scientists at Brooks need a number of volunteer subjects for participation in hypobaric (altitude) chamber research projects. Air Force aircrew members who are interested and meet the qualifications will earn approximately \$150 per month for participating in one session per month. Volunteers must meet Air Force body fat, height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least 2 years, be between 20-45 years old, and able to pass an appropriate physical exam. Contact Jim Carlile at 536-3546, or Heather Alexander at 536-3440 for more information.

## Active duty medical inprocessing

All active duty members (Army, Navy, Air Force) are required to inprocess through the base clinic when they arrive at Brooks. The Military Personnel Flight will provide an appointment for this mandatory medical orientation for all active duty newcomers. The medical orientation is an important step to accessing care at this facility. During this briefing, the active duty member will complete necessary documentation to change primary care assignment to Brooks Clinic from their previous duty station. Delaying your attendance at the medical orientation and completion of the proper TRICARE transfer documentation may cause delays in TRICARE assignment. Unfortunately, completion of the transfer for the active duty member does not ensure that the family members are transferred. The sponsor or spouse must stop by a TRICARE Service Center to complete the necessary TRICARE transfer enrollment forms for all non-active duty members. There is a TRICARE Service Center at the Brooks clinic for your convenience. If you have any questions regarding TRICARE enrollment, please call 536-2928 or the TRICARE Service Center at 1-800-406-2832. The 311th Medical Squadron is proud to be your partner in health care.

## Brooks Toastmasters

Toastmasters is an international organization formed in 1924 to aid in effective communication, practicing public speaking in a relaxed environment. Toastmasters meets here each Wed. at 11:30 a.m. Contact Rick Young at 536-4464 or Capt. Juan Ubiera at 536-1953 for more information.

## Technology expo

The 311th Communications Squadron will host the Brooks technology Expo, scheduled for Jan. 29 at the Brooks Club from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The event is open to all base personnel. More than 20 different manufacturers, developers and systems integrators will participate.



# Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

## 3-day transition seminar

**8a.m.-4 p.m., Jan. 15-17, Bldg. 538—** Making the transition from the military to the civilian sector can be a big undertaking. This seminar allows us to better serve those separating and retiring members and their spouses. Topics include job search preparation resume writing, interviewing skills to include appropriate dress, veteran's benefits, and much more. One should at-

tend at least 180 days prior to retirement or separation.

## Financially Fit for 2002

**11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Jan. 23, Bldg. 538—** **Pre-registering a must** January is the perfect time to look at long term and short term goals, prepare for impending changes, and create a debt reduction plan. Please join us and take a positive step toward being financially fit in 2002. Reservations are required.

## Single parents

**1 - 3 p.m., Jan. 29, Brooks Chapel** All single parents, military and civilian are invited to this YOFAM event. Come out and join in on the food and fun and meet other single parents. A soup and sandwich lunch will be provided by the chapel. For more information contact Chaplain Allen at 536-3824.

For information on any of the classes or programs available, call the Family Support Center at 536-2444.

## Clinic Notes

Effective immediately, Prilosec (omeprazole) will no longer be available at the Brooks Pharmacy. The Department of Defense Pharmacoeconomic Center has deleted Prilosec from the Basic Core Formulary and has added Aciphex (rabeprazole) in its place. All military pharmacies in the greater San Antonio area have implemented this program. Patients with Prilosec prescriptions from Brooks Clinic providers will automatically be switched from Prilosec to Aciphex (rabeprazole). Patients with prescriptions from other military bases or from civilian providers must bring in a new prescription by Jan. 31, 2002. Refills will be honored until then. Patients always have the option to use their Tricare prescription benefit at any of the local retail network pharmacy. The copay for Prilosec will be \$9 for a 30-day supply. All prescriptions filled at a network pharmacy must be refilled at a network pharmacy. For more information, call the Brooks pharmacy at 536-2134.





# Local students STEP ahead through work program

By Rick Guidry  
Discovery Staff Writer

Almost 70 local area students are taking part in the Student Educational Employment Program at Brooks to enhance their work experience and earn extra dollars while completing their education. A component of the student program being used at Brooks is the Student Temporary Employment Program.

According to Tammy Sierra, Student Program Manager with the 311th Air Base Group Civilian Personnel Division, STEP is available to a broad category of students. This includes those enrolled or accepted for enrollment in high school, vocational and technical schools, post-secondary degree programs, and professional degree programs. Student eligibility is

based on a course load of at least 6 semester hours or the education program equivalent. The only age requirement is that candidates must be at least 16.

Students must maintain a 2.0 or better grade point average. If grades are below that for two consecutive semesters, students are separated from the program. Employment is for 20 hours a week when school is in session. When school is not in session, STEP employees may work 40 hours a week.

Supervisors work closely with students to make sure that work schedules do not conflict with classes and study, while agency needs are being met. Ms Sierra adds there is “absolutely no discrimination” in the federal program. “As our taxpayers would expect, we operate on an inclusive

basis,” she states.

Appointments are up to one year, and students may re-register each fall to continue in the program as long as they remain active in a recognized education program. Most positions are in the clerical field, but Ms Sierra says she attempts to place students within their majors.

Sierra explains that the program seeks to “help students improve their skills and raise their work experience. At the same time, participating organizations can draw on a talented work pool to conduct day-to-day business.”

Active in the program since 1992 and program manager since 1999, Ms Sierra speaks thoughtfully when she describes how she has seen individual students grow tremendously. “We share a special respect. They come to

me for professional guidance, and sometimes that will include personal issues they are trying to resolve. I try to help them determine their choices so they can make informed decisions. We want these students to be successful in their jobs. We certainly want them to earn their diplomas, certificates or degrees and then move to the next level, whether that be a more challenging job, further education, or both.”

Civilian personnel officials note that STEP wages are competitive in comparison to private industry. Workers earn annual and sick leave based on their work hours.

Anyone interested in the STEP program may contact Sierra at 536-3090 for more information.

John.Guidry@brooks.af.mil

## STEP students share similar path toward success

By Rick Guidry  
Discovery Staff Writer

Heather Canales and Melissa Ruiz grew up on opposite sides of San Antonio. Today they’re taking similar paths toward success.

Each is pursuing academic degrees, and both work for the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis in the Student Temporary Employee Program.

One of the largest employers of STEP workers at Brooks, AFIERA supervisors describe the student workers as bright, extremely dependable, and eager to learn.

Heather Canales, an administrative clerk in customer service at AFIERA, has been a STEP employee for just about two years. She is a computer science major with a minor in mathematics at St. Mary’s University. After earning her bachelor’s, the sophomore hopes to complete a Ph.D in computer science from the University of Texas at Austin.

The Taft High School graduate says she loves her job because “the people I work with are very supportive. They keep me informed on issues related to my job. It is a wonderful professional working environment.” In addition to supporting customer service operations and performing routine administrative matters, Canales tracks the AFIERA sun-

shine budget. The non-appropriations fund program makes it possible for AFIERA to sponsor birthday observances, arrivals, departures and other special unit events.

Canales says working with Air Force people has “boosted my pride in my country, especially since the tragic events last September. Every day, I see first hand the sacrifice my co-workers here make. They are everyday heroes. My opportunity to work with people from different cultures has led me to appreciate the importance of diversity in the workforce. This will help me in my future career.”

During her spare time, Canales is a volunteer at the Downtown Youth Center in San Antonio where she mentors and tutors young people from low-income families.

Her supervisor, Donna Greenwalt, customer service manager for AFIERA since 1998, speaks highly of Canales for her dedication and responsible approach to her work.

Melissa Ruiz, works down the hallway from Canales in the vice commander’s office as a clerical aide. She is administrative backup to her supervisor, Linda Cospers. The communications major at Palo Alto College is putting her skills to work by welcoming visitors, taking photographs at unit events and assisting with multi-media at director’s calls and other official activities.

Cospers speaks of her interest in helping Ruiz achieve her goals. “I try to work with her class and study schedule as much as possible. Melissa constantly wants to learn, so in the workplace we are benefiting from her contributions. This is definitely a win-win situation. This young lady has definite goals, and she is acting on them.” When AFIERA needs pictures taken, Ruiz is lead photographer.

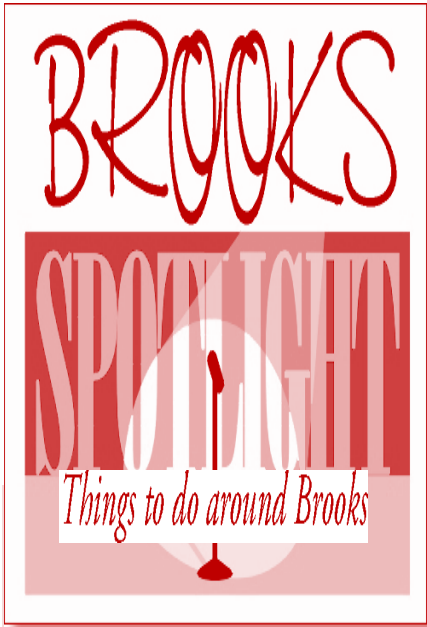
In turn, Ruiz says she appreciates the confidence her co-workers place in her professional abilities. “This work experience has raised my self-esteem,” she says. “A public relations professional needs that kind of feedback.”

The working student takes time from her busy schedule to help develop exhibits at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens.

Greenwalt expects much from the STEP crew. “I tell everybody that I need them to help me do my job. Customer service is everybody’s business. So far, the entire AFIERA staff, including these STEP workers, have performed with excellence when taking care of our customers”

Civilian personnel officials say that STEP students all over Brooks are helping keep organizations one step ahead with their stellar performances.

John.Guidry@brooks.af.mil



**By Jan McMahon**  
Brooks Services Marketing Office  
536-5475

### NAF Auction

A NAF Auction is scheduled for January 25 in Bldg. 1157 (former Auto Skills Center). The “action” will start at 10 a.m. and continue until items are sold. Items may be viewed from 9-9:30 a.m. The sale will include vehicles, boats, lawn mowers, industrial refrigerators and freezers, deep fat fryers, commercial kilns with accessories, silk screen equipment and supplies, tables, chairs, lamps, pictures and a large variety of tools and automotive shop equipment, and much more. Items will be sold as is, and only to valid military, DoD civilians and contractor identification card holders. Cash or checks will be accepted. Purchasers must present a current photo ID with checks.

### Brooks Club Bldg. 204, 536-3782

The Brooks Consolidated Club System has streamlined their operation in order to provide quality service to our many valued customers. The Brooks Club will no longer serve lunch through the cafeteria line. We will handle special functions during the day or evening. Please use Sidney’s Grill & Lounge for your food and beverage needs. The Boar’s Head Pub will serve from their menu Monday through Friday from 4-8 p.m. Call 536-3782 to place your take out orders. Club members receive a 10% discount

on food items so be sure to show your club card when you order. Make plans to attend the Tailgate Party and watch Super Bowl XXXIV at the Brooks Club on the big screen TV! Doors open at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3. Everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish and the club will provide light hors d’oeuvres. Drinks can be purchased throughout the afternoon and various specials will be offered during the game. Drawings will be held each quarter.

### The FrameWorks Bldg. 1154, 536-2120

Have you heard the great news? Let me tell you about a shop that decided to lower their prices across board. With the beginning of a new year and we will start off price reductions in all framing areas. Bring your photos, certificates or posters and let Becky assist you in selecting just the right mat and molding to compliment your artwork.

### Outdoor Recreation Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

It is time to renew your garden plots. If you already have a plot please stop by and renew your plot as soon as possible. This can become a very educational experience for children, young and old at heart. There are 56 numbered plots with water between every four plots. The annual rental fee is \$10 per plot. Stop by and ask Rick Jones about the great possibilities of growing produce or even flowers for your home and office. 2002 reservations for pavilions will began in early January. There are four pavilions located on Brooks for the base population to use. They range in price from \$15-\$35. Be sure to stop by and make your reservations as soon as you have a firm date. Outdoor Recreation’s hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1-4 p.m.

### Base Library Bldg. 705, 536-2634

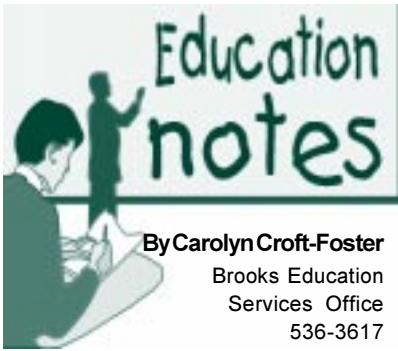
Happy New Year from the Base Library staff. We want you to know you can count us for many things. Some of them are: Seven computers with Internet access

Books on tape for long drives  
Answers to what gift you give on which wedding anniversary  
Which breed of puppy would fit your family’s lifestyle  
Congressional Medal of Honor winners - our heroes  
Hobbies, hobbies, hobbies!  
What your dreams mean  
Car repair manuals  
Videos on common health problems  
Latest financial information - Barron’s, Wall Street Journal, Standard & Poors  
Sports: Every facet  
How to be a great parent  
Preparing for tests: GRE, GMAT, SAT, Parole Officer, Clerk, etc.  
Helping your elderly parents  
Choosing a college, and getting financial aid  
Mastering the art of cooking  
Religions of the world  
World events and when they took place  
U.S., world, and military history  
Where to travel in the world and what to expect  
Effective grandparenting  
Gardening  
Everything about Texas  
Free copy of Airman magazine each month  
Great selection of newspapers  
Federal income tax forms  
A quite place to relax and read

### Brooks Atrium Bldg. 1154

Visit the Brooks Atrium. Bldg. 1154, located on 9th Street directly behind the baseball field, as a new name. The recently renovated interior of the Brooks Atrium is home to the Services Marketing Department, The FrameWorks and Outdoor Recreation. While visiting The FrameWorks be sure to check out our consignment area, Crafted With Care. You can pick up handcrafted gifts for family, friends or office personnel. Rent items such as tables, chairs, grills, camping equipment, sports equipment, bicycles and other items from Equipment Check-Out located in Outdoor Recreation. They also are in charge of the Fam Camp, base pavilions, Lemon Lot and Vehicle Storage Lot. The Family Support Center Loan Closet has recently moved to Outdoor Recreation. Military personnel who are doing a PCS move to or from Brooks can temporarily check out household items such as dish packs. Stop by and visit the Atrium.





By Carolyn Croft-Foster  
Brooks Education  
Services Office  
536-3617

### CCAF Spring graduation deadline

The deadline for Community College of the Air Force Spring 2002 graduation is Feb. 22. Nominations must be received by CCAF at Maxwell AFB, AL by that date. Students who believe they are a degree candidate need to contact Education Services to ensure their nominations have been submitted.

### Registration underway for Spring '02

Palo Alto College will offer courses on base for the full semester and Flex 1. Classes begin Jan. 14 for 16 week lunch-time courses including: US History I, and Fundamentals of Speech. Flex courses include Art Appreciation, English, and Government. The PAC representative can register students for ACCD classes Tuesdays. Call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment.

### UTSA On-Base Class

The University of Texas at San Antonio will be offering AHS 2103 Physiology at Brooks from Jan. 14-May 11 during lunch. The course is scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Friday from noon-12:50 in Bldg. 559, in classroom 5.

For more information visit Education Services or call 536-3617

### Six CLEP exams to retire

The College Board is retiring 6 CLEP Subject paper-based tests in fiscal year 2002.

The exams that will be retired July 1 are: American Government, College Algebra and Trigonometry, Human Growth and Development, Marketing, Sociology, and Trigonometry.

### Applications due

Applications for the U.S. Air Force Academy and Preparatory School are due by Jan. 31. Students who have not submitted an AF Form 125 need to complete the form in Education Services immediately.

Applications for the Physician Assistant Program are due Jan. 25. Students who have not yet reviewed their essay should schedule an appointment with the AF Guidance Counselor.

Applications for Airman Education and Commissioning Program are due by Jan. 15. Students interested in applying for 2003 should schedule an appointment with the AF Guidance Counselor before March.

Applications for Officer Training School boards 0204, 0205, and 0206 need to be reviewed in Education Services. Call 536-3617 for an appointment. Applicants should bring their AF Form 56 with them to the appointment.

Applications for ROTC Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program and Professional Officer's Course—Early Release Program are due March 1 in Education Services. Schedule an appointment to meet with the guidance counselor to review requirements.







Gonzalez



**FULL NAME:**  
*Melissa A. Gonzalez*

**DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:**  
*Noncommissioned officer in charge, Brooks Honor Guard*

**WHAT IS MY JOB?:**  
*Plan & coordinate honors for funerals, base functions and community events*

**BIRTHDAY:**  
*June 20, 1977*

**HOMETOWN:**  
*Palm Springs, CA*

**FAMILY STATUS:**  
*Married with two step-children*

**PERSONAL MOTTO:**  
*The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything, they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.*

**PET PEEVE:**  
*First impressions*

**I ENLISTED IN THE AIR FORCE BECAUSE:**  
*I wanted to fulfill my patriotic duty and give back to our nation.*

**FIVE-YEAR GOAL:**  
*Finish bachelor's degree*

**ULTIMATE GOAL:**  
*An assignment to Japan.*

**IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:**  
*Act like a child at Christmas and spend it.*

**FAVORITE MUSIC:**  
*R&B*

**LAST MOVIE WATCHED**  
*Jimmy Neutron. I had kids with me, I promise.*

**MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IS:**  
*Marrying my husband*

**MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION IS:**  
*My family pictures*

**FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM:**  
*Lakers!*

# Honor Guard NCOIC steps up



Photo by SrA Brandy Bogart

**Outside of practicing and performing honor guard ceremonies, Staff Sergeant Melissa Gonzalez spends a large portion of her time behind the desk planning and coordinating honor guard details.**

**By Rick Guidry**  
*Discovery staff writer*

Staff Sgt. Melissa Gonzalez understands that you only get one chance to make a first impression. She is non-commissioned officer in charge of the Brooks Honor Guard.

During basic training nearly six years ago, Gonzalez paid extra attention to customs and courtesies. Her snappy salutes, smart steps and crisp creases prove that she takes her job seriously.

The Palm Springs, Calif. native is a third generation Air Force NCO.

"I would like to go to Officers' Training School, but I also feel like I have a commitment to the enlisted members of my family. I'm proud to carry on that enlisted tradition."

Even so, she has her sights on earning a bachelor's degree

Gonzalez has been a member of the Brooks Honor Guard for about a year while performing duties as NCOIC of mortuary affairs. She became leader of the honor guard about a month ago, carrying out those duties full-time.

The unit primarily supports funeral services for active duty and retired military people. Honor guard members also perform details at official wing functions and community events.

In January 2000, Congress mandated the Department of Defense to provide full military honors at the funerals of eligible military veterans. That is a substantial effort because about 1,100 World War II veterans die every day according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

On the request of the decedent's next of kin or authorized representative, the commander of an Air Force base manned by active duty personnel may furnish the standard Air Force military funeral honors to eligible personnel as specified in the regulations.

"Since demand is so high, we work closely with honor guards from all the military installations in San Antonio to make sure we are meeting the needs of our veterans and their families. The interaction that goes on between the military community is exciting," Gonzalez shares.

"I feel privileged to render final honors to the people who have given so unselfishly to their country. It is saying thanks on behalf of the Air Force and a grateful nation," the sergeant said.

The pace of events keeps Gonzalez and her team busy. Guard members conduct drill practice every Monday morning, and support at least one detail four days a week. "We arrive at the event location early to prepare for the ceremony. Each is unique," the honor guard NCOIC explains. For instance, variation at funerals may be dictated by a number of factors. These include the physical layout of the area where the funeral is to take place, the people and equipment available or required, and the desires of the next of kin.

Her husband, SSgt. Garbriel Gonzalez, is an instructor with the Air Force Security Police School. They have two children, Gabriel, Jr., and Ashlyn. The two met at Minot AFB, N.D.

"Since we were from opposite ends of the continent, it makes sense that

we would meet halfway in the Midwest."

While being in charge of the honor guard is no route step, the second-term NCO doesn't take her work home. "When I get home, it's all about family," she says.

Gonzalez attended Palm Springs High School, and graduated from Beaumont High School in California. Her father Donald Reed, an Air Force veteran, is retired from a heavy equipment rental company. He now works on computers as a hobby. Her mother, Emmy Reed, manages medical records for a clinic on an Indian reservation near Beaumont.

"I try to motivate people by leading by example. When you are motivated you have the will to achieve anything. It adds an extra edge to your abilities," she states.

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, and Command Chief Master Sergeant Darlin Evans hired Gonzalez for the job after a selective review of volunteers.

"We identified her as the ideal person to lead the Brooks Honor Guard. This is a special assignment for a uniquely qualified NCO," Evans emphasized.

"We are thankful to Brooks commanders, supervisors and first sergeants for allowing their people time to train on our team. Practice is key to maintaining quality service in this duty," Gonzalez says just before a Monday morning drill practice.

Meanwhile, she continues to put her best foot forward.

*John.Guidry@brooks.af.mil*





# Former Hangar 7 carpenter frames Air Force career with LBJ, Nixon

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Brooks Field's Hangar 7 once housed the base carpentry shop where a young airman plied a familiar trade in 1951, unaware that his Air Force career would one day be framed by his communications work supporting two American presidents.

Like many returning veterans who have re-emerged at Brooks after a 50-year hiatus, Richard Schutte relates a familiar story of getting his military career started here that later led to greater opportunities.

"I enlisted in the Air Force in October 1950," said the 79-year-old Hamilton, Ohio native. Ironically, the son of a professional carpenter would himself become involved in the same occupation.

"I had scored high on the aptitude test for teletype (operator) while at Lackland AFB. I was first assigned to the Air Force Security Service," admits Schutte. After completing teletype operator school at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., he was shipped to Brooks Field where the Air Force Security Service was headquartered.

While waiting for a top secret clearance, Schutte was reclassified as a carpenter. "I never (even) worked with dad," he confessed, although he had taken high school wood shop.

Says Schutte, "I was assigned to the carpentry shop where we made map racks for cartographers. They kept me there as a permanent carpenter."



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Richard Schutte points to the original Hangar 7 where he worked in the 1950's.

The shop was manned by eight people and featured all the machine tools needed to fulfill any base requirement. "We did all the wood work on base including remodeling buildings," he said.

Then in autumn 1951, Schutte was re-classified again because of his teletype operator experience. He was reassigned in early 1952 to the National Security Agency in Washington, D.C. as a military intelligence cryptology operator. There, he met his future wife Dorothy, who was a cryptology technician in U.S. Naval communications. They later married and both left the service in October 1954. Moving to Arizona's Gila Bend near Tucson to work in a copper mine was, however, a short-lived occupational career move.

"I worked the smelter at the copper mine for 10 days,

after which an Air Force recruiter contacted me. I re-enlisted in March 1955," Schutte said. At Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson, Schutte ran the Aircraft Control Wing's teletype section until 1956 when he was reassigned to Tokyo as a cryptology technician at Far East Air Force headquarters. Subsequent assignments stateside and overseas elevated Schutte's profile as a communications specialist.

Then in December 1963, Schutte was tapped to serve in White House communications. He arrived in Washington, D.C. just two months after President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated. He first met President Lyndon Johnson in January 1964. "LBJ was the type of person who didn't want news to get

(leaked) out," recalls Schutte. This was particularly true when LBJ made surprise visits where his wife LadyBird was a public event keynote speaker.

One of Schutte's early assignments was setting up communications for LadyBird. "I'd be in the advance party to set up telephone support for the press, secret service and for Mrs. Johnson's staff." The job was demanding and fast-paced, requiring sometimes communications set-ups at multiple places in one day. Such was the case during LadyBird's trip to Tennessee where she was to speak first at The Hermitage, followed by two other public addresses at different venues. Further complicating the logistics requirements was LBJ who made one of his 'surprise' visits. "We didn't have with us the presidential podium.

LBJ liked to use it, which featured the presidential seal. We scrounged a music stand and set it for his height, which was about six feet, two-and-half inches." To compensate for the height differential between LBJ and his wife, who was scheduled to speak immediately after her husband had made his remarks, Schutte had to think of a way to elevate her quickly because there was no time to make music stand adjustments. "We used a Coca Cola crate for her to stand on." The press conference was a success.

Schutte developed a reputation for reliability and innovativeness in supporting the President and first lady through 1968. Shortly before Johnson announced he would not seek a second term, Schutte left the job following promotion to warrant officer. A Vietnam tour followed.

He later served a second White House communications tour, this time serving President Richard Nixon. He made numerous trips with Nixon setting up communications on the campaign trail. After retiring from the military, Schutte began a second communications career supporting several organizations including the Drug Enforcement Agency, U.S. Customs, and two major aircraft defense contractors.

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# CBI pilot credits Brooks training for getting him over 'The Hump'

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

While many World War II pilots credit Brooks Field training for helping prepare them for survival in combat, few are as grateful for the experience than an 82-year-old veteran of one of the war's most treacherous air corridors known as 'The Hump.'

The Hump, nickname for the world's tallest mountain chain - the Himalayas, provided the backdrop for China-Burma-India pilots such as Robert Taylor for testing their flying skills under the most hostile and unforgiving conditions.

"You had to know where you were flying at all times over the Himalayas. There are lots of clouds around peaks. We lost a lot of airplanes," admits Taylor. He spent a harrowing tour of duty in 1944-45 piloting C-54s through perpetually overcast conditions that shrouded a circuitous route through dauntingly high mountain passages. Any miscalculation during these trips to

re-supply American B-29s based in China could have ended in fiery disaster, for their gasoline cargo made Taylor's aircraft a 'flying bomb.'

"I had a perfect record. I never got lost. I stayed prepared and alert," said the Riverside, California resident who recently returned to Brooks for the first time since 1942. It was here where he learned about flying, lessons that became invaluable to him during the war.

"Flight training (at Brooks) gave me a good understanding of how to fly a plane using visual flight rules. I learned to navigate using landmarks. It was important to learn how to fly visually," Taylor said, noting that this skill, coupled with instru-



Taylor

ment flight training, helped him survive "The Hump." Taylor earned his pilot's wings at Brooks, less than a year after his Army National Guard unit had been mobilized

following the Pearl Harbor attack.

"I was attending Mayville State College near my home in Missouri when I joined the National Guard in 1937. The money helped pay for my tuition," he recalls. However, Taylor would have to wait until after the war to graduate. Instead, he was accepted to flying school shortly after his National Guard unit arrived in Columbia, S.C.

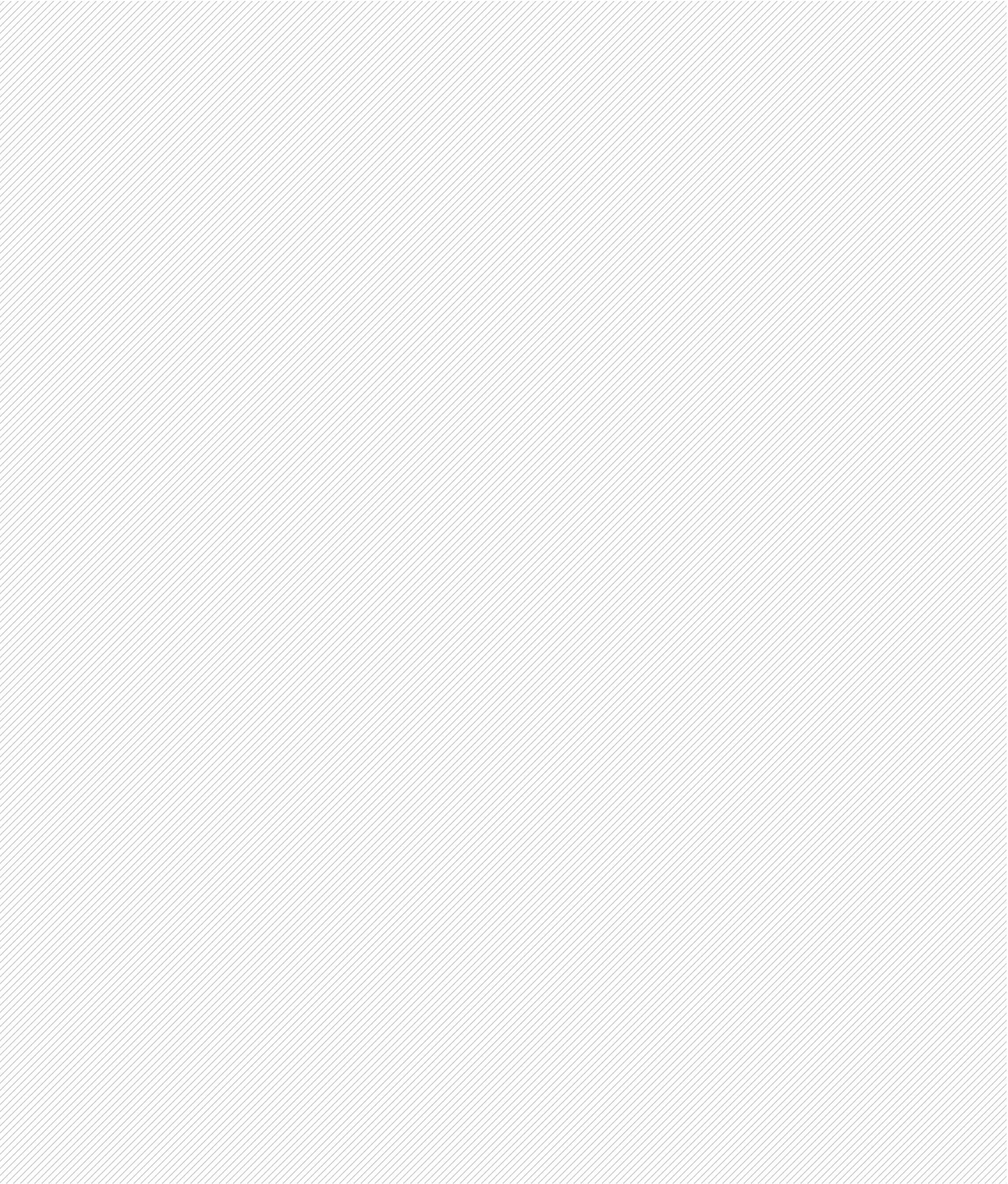
After primary and basic flight training elsewhere, Taylor spent three months at Brooks Field train-

ing in AT-6s. The experience girded him for the many challenges that lay ahead.

Prior to his CBI Theater assignment, Taylor flew many overseas missions as part of the 4th Ferry Group based in Memphis, Tenn. "Our mission was to transport A-20s, an attack bomber, for use by the Russians. It was a sort of 'reverse Lend Lease.' They wouldn't let us fly them into Russia, so we flew them to Iran, Pakistan and Alaska."

Taylor later became chief pilot at Kermitola AB in northeast India while supporting the 20th Air Force in the CBI Theater. CBI crews flew exhausting missions, day and night, with no fixed schedules through usually turbulent weather conditions. Taylor accepted the danger as an occupational hazard.

"In those days, we had no air refueling. The fuel you had was all that you got to fly your mission," explains Taylor. The air routes, one-







# TRAC2ES-the right tool for today’s medical evacuations

By Lt. Tim Schofield  
311th Human Systems Program Office

The TRANSCOM Regulating and Command & Control Evacuation System provides worldwide management and control the Department of Defense’s patient and casualty evacuation requirements.

TRAC2ES is a decision support tool that combines reengineering of business processes and automated information system solutions. The system integrates patient needs, transportation, logistics, and clinical information to develop the most efficient plan to move patients to receive the care they need. The system looks at a variety of factors that influence the decision making process and can rapidly plan the evacuation of more than 1000 patients in under 30 minutes.

TRAC2ES supports the full spectrum of operational scenarios, from day-to-day peacetime ops to full up major conflicts and natural disasters. The system is designed to operate the same in peacetime as at all other levels to enhance operational readiness.

The warfighter’s primary access to TRAC2ES is via a web-based interface. A medical clerk, using any DoD desktop computer, can input a patient movement request over the world-wide web. For areas where dedicated web access is unavailable, TRAC2ES has an e-mail like application called “TRAC2ES-Mobile” that enables a user to work offline then connect to a network, submit information and disconnect again.

Once PMR information is input into the system, the part of TRAC2ES application known as the “Lift-Bed Planner” considers all of the PMRs submitted, all of the missions capable of carrying patients that are available, the number of beds at various hospitals around the world, and then determines which patient will fly on which mission to which destination.

This planning cycle is now performed automatically in minutes instead of the hours it previously took on a grease board.

One of the greatest benefits of TRAC2ES is the ability to perform In-Transit Visibility. Within 5 minutes, TRAC2ES can report the last known location of a patient while they are in the evacuation process. This allows commanders and medical personnel to track the latest status of a patient.

TRAC2ES became operational on July 11, 2001. In the short time it’s been operational, TRAC2ES has been called on repeatedly to support a number of high profile cases.

In August TRAC2ES was used to plan the life-saving evacuation mission of an injured Chinese sailor who fell 19 feet to the ship’s deck at Christmas Atoll in the Pacific.

If TRAC2ES is ever needed, America’s fighting men and women will quickly have a plan for the most efficient route to safety and medical care.



Courtesy photo

Maj. Michael Silka, foreground, of Tripler Army Medical Center and Capt. Lyndon Agan of Pacific Air Forces prepare a severely injured seaman for evacuation from his ship near Christmas Atoll in the Mariana Island. TRAC2ES helped identify the treatment center where he would receive further medical care.



# Air Force coaching pays off for high school guard

By Rick Guidry  
Discovery Staff Writer

Sherman Howard Jr. is a modest 17-year old high school senior of few words. That's saying a mouthful because he's also a budding basketball star at Samuel Clemens High School in Schertz.

Just as modest is his father, Sherman Howard Sr., an auditor with the Air Force Audit Agency here, who says his son is a better person for having played the game since he was 10 years old.

The younger Howard started gaining basketball experience at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, about 10 years ago. He competed in international competition while there.

This season he is averaging about 18 points and 4 rebounds per game, as the 8-10 Buffaloes enter mid-season. His baskets place him among the top 10 in scoring production in the San Antonio area.

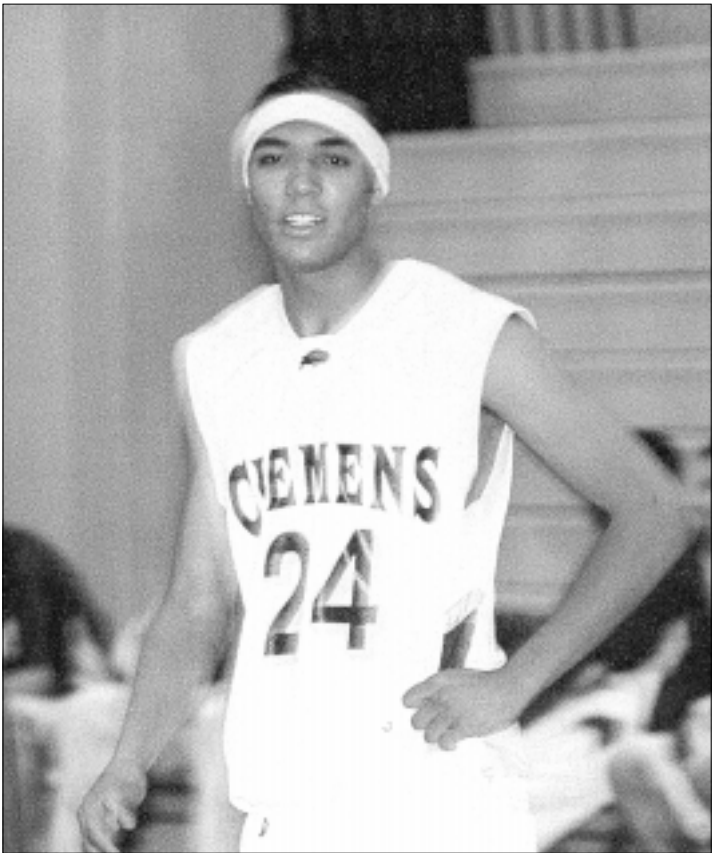
winning, and find a home with a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I school.

He likes the Spurs, but favors the Philadelphia 76ers and Allen Iverson.

The roundballer can dunk or shoot 3s, but he says he does so "only when its not at the expense of the team. If the basket is crucial, I will penetrate and go for the easy two or dish off to the open man if that's what it takes to win."

While his main responsibilities are to shoot, he racks up more than 2 assists and 2 steals per game.

Coach McConaghy says Sherman Jr. and the team are "still improving and getting more consistent. Lack of consistency has caused us to lose games we shouldn't have lost. Our players are maturing and learning the lessons it takes to win



Howard  
Courtesy photo



Sherman Howard, Jr., No. 24, a 6 foot 4 inch shooting guard for Samuel Clemens High School scores two of the 18 points he scores on average per game.

Sherman's career high point game is 32 points, scored with Clemens.

The 6 foot 4 inch shooting guard is consistent, having averaged about 19 points and 6 rebounds per game last year.

That level of performance led him to be named an all-tournament first team guard for Cibolo Creek Classics in the 2001 and 2000 seasons. He was second team all district 26-5A during last year's campaign.

Number 24 says Clemens Coach Bruce McConaghy is preparing him well by challenging him to compete.

"Coach makes sure we are physically and mentally prepared for each game. He emphasizes that each player must have a teamwork attitude in order for us to win," he pointed out.

The Clemens athlete says his goals are to play his best, help out his team, improve his stats while

games. It's part of my job to teach them those lessons."

Sherman Sr., who was a guard for the Fremont High School Pathfinders in south central Los Angeles, says his son has "learned persistence and how to interact properly with others" since playing the game.

"The bottom line is that Sherman is a team player. He's a scorer, but he also passes and makes a lot of assists," his father added.

After high school basketball season, Sherman will play his second year with an Amateur Athletic Union team, the San Antonio Ro-Hawks.

The squad includes local area players who are high school basketball stars in their own rights. Sherman is one of the top scorers in that league.

His red and black lightweight shoes cost about \$140 a pair. Even though he usually goes through two

pair a year, his dad isn't complaining.

"I support Sherman in every way I can. I go to every one of his games, no matter where he's playing. My job is to encourage and cheer him on. I want to help him achieve his goals. I do the easy part," the spirited father says.

Howard, a civil servant for 28 years says the training his son received from Air Force coaches at Ramstein made a positive difference in his son's basketball abilities

Sherman tried his hand at football for the first time during the 2001 season, starting at split end. He scored four touchdowns, including three on receptions and one on an end zone fumble.

Clemens, primarily a running team, finished 7 and 3.

His father was reluctant to have his son risk a football injury that

“ I support Sherman in every way I can. I go to every one of his games, no matter where he's playing. My job is to encourage and cheer him on. I want to help him achieve his goals. I do the easy part. ”

Sherman Howard Sr.  
Air Force Audit Agency

could end his promising basketball career, but he gave his son the ball.

"I allowed Sherman to make his own decision and I supported him. I don't want him to have any regrets. He now has letters in basketball and football,"

Sherman is enrolled in the NCAA Clearinghouse and has had inquiries from at least one Texas university.

Meanwhile, he will continue playing high school and AAU basketball.

In his high school basketball career, the elder Sherman played alongside Curtis Rowe, who went on to star with the Los Angeles Lakers.





# Expeditionary Medical Support: Expert medical care anywhere in the world

By Staff Sgt. John Jung  
311th HSW Public Affairs

“The best care anywhere,” was the slogan of the fictional 4077th M\*A\*S\*H unit and it is that same spirit that permeates the cadre of professional instructors teaching the Expeditionary Medical Support course at Brooks. For the past 14 months Brooks and the U. S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine has been the Mecca for EMEDS, for it is taught nowhere else in the Air Force.

The course usually consists of a five to seven day curriculum, but the length varies upon the individual assignment to the medical Unit Type Code, the demands of the Air Expeditionary Forces tasked and the time available for training.

“The idea of EMEDS is to deploy a light, lean and lifesaving medical unit anywhere in the world at a moment’s notice,” said Col. Vigil Jefferson, Chief of Theater Medical Support. “EMEDS plugs into the Air Expeditionary Force concept well, because when the AEF units deploy the EMEDS package deploys right along side them.”

EMEDS training is not only for medical people, but also for a wide spectrum of personnel and specialties. The EMEDS cadre has instructors who specialize in logistics, bioenvironmental engineering and medicine, as well as other disciplines to help students get a feel for what it may be like to work in an austere location. Deployed medical units rarely have the pristine working conditions of a stateside hospital, so they have to learn how to adapt to the deployed location. “We’re setting up a whole medical community, not just opening up an operating room so we can work on a belly wound,” said the colonel. Packing and unpacking tents, medical equipment and supplies are all part of the course. Enlisted or officer, administrator or surgeon, all train together to field an effective medical unit anywhere the Air Force needs them.

“The bottom line is to get people to work together quickly as a cohesive unit so that they can handle whatever comes through their door. Many times you’ll get personnel from all different parts of the globe—literally—and it takes time to mesh just like any other unit,” said Jefferson. “EMEDS trains people

to work together no matter where they are from or what their specialty is.”

The size of the EMEDS medical response unit depends on the requirements of the deployed location commander and varies across the full spectrum of military and humanitarian operations.

The first increment is EMEDS Basic. This medical package refers to the operational medical support required to provide medical care to a single bed-down with a population of 500-2,000 patients and is capable of more than ten major surgeries, according to Jefferson.

EMEDS Basic provides 24-hour sick call and emergency medical care plus the following capabilities: medical command and control, preventive medicine, trauma resuscitation and stabilization, general and orthopedic surgery, critical care, primary care, aeromedical evacuation and coordination, aerospace medicine, urgent care, dental and limited ancillary services.

EMEDS +10 is the next increment of medical care available and offers the same scope of care that EMEDS Basic does with the addition of 10 inpatient beds. It can serve a patient population of 2,000-3,000 patients. This increment can obtain full operational capability within 12 hours following arrival at the deployed location.

The final increment of care is the EMEDS +25. This medical package represents the full spectrum of theater hospitalization. As the name implies, the inpatient capability is expanded to 25 inpatients. Similar to EMEDS Basic and the EMEDS +10, this increment can obtain full operational capability within 48 hours following arrival at the deployed location. This EMEDS force package can serve a population of 3,000-5,000 patients and is capable of more than 20 major surgeries.

“Without a doubt, saving lives is the number one thing we’re teaching the students,” said Lt. Col. Richard Abney, EMEDS course director. “If they [the students] can take what they’ve learned here and apply the same standard of care that they provide here in developed stateside hospitals to wherever they may be deployed in the world, then they are saving lives and that is what we teach here at EMEDS.”

Saving lives was exactly what a team from Brooks and Wilford Hall Medical Center, Texas did when they were deployed on a

humanitarian mission to assist with flooding in Houston, in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Allison. The Wilford Hall team had not yet been through formal EMEDS training and requested support from the Brooks EMEDS cadre. Members of the cadre immediately deployed in advance of the Wilford Hall team from June 13-16 to help establish the EMEDS units that were to arrive soon.

Within a few hours of each other, an EMEDS Basic, +10 and +25 package arrived and set up to help Houston’s overtaxed hospitals. While deployed in Houston the EMEDS +25 unit provided medical care to upwards of 2,000 patients, including several motor vehicle accidents and they even performed 12 surgeries from their location in Astro Hall, near the Houston Astrodome.

“There were a number of firsts that occurred on this deployment. It was the first time EMEDS +25 had been deployed, it was the first time EMEDS had been deployed in a humanitarian mission and it was the first time the cadre had deployed with an EMEDS unit,” said Abney. “What we’ve learned from the mission to Houston is that we are teaching the right kinds of things here at the school. What we’re teaching is valid regardless of type of mission—it would work as well during wartime versus during peacetime humanitarian or disaster relief missions. It can be employed for any of these types of circumstances.”

The cadre members oversaw the initial set up of the EMEDS +25 and left Houston with full confidence that the unit was ready to operate at full capacity. The deployed package featured a fully functional operating room, emergency room, intensive care unit, x-ray labs, wards for both men and women and a control center.

Additionally, the cadre felt greatly satisfied knowing that not only were they teaching the right kinds of lessons, but that they were able to see their work come to fruition at a real-world disaster site. EMEDS lived up to its billing as a light, lean and lifesaving medical unit providing “the best care anywhere.”

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## Pilot

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way, typically covered between 1,800 and 2,000 miles.

What Taylor saw when he landed at a Chinese base during his first ‘orientation’ mission shocked and angered him.

Besides the hundreds of gallons of fuel the Chinese off-loaded from C-54s’ cargo bays, they were also draining ‘excess’ fuel from aircrafts’ wingtips.

Taylor said these Chinese workers were instructed to leave only enough fuel for the India-based re-supply crews to get back home.

They did this on the pretext that B-29 crews, who used Chinese bases to stage bombing raids on Japan, needed every drop of fuel they could get.

“I realized that only under ideal weather conditions was there enough fuel left to get back to base,” Taylor said.

He ordered his crew to stop the Chinese workers from

taking any fuel stored in his airplane’s wing tips.

Taylor’s decision helped save his crew on January 7, 1945 when a severe storm erupted over “The Hump.”

The strong headwinds wreaked havoc with C-54 crews, low on fuel, trying to get back to India from China.

“I heard many ‘maydays’ (emergency distress calls). We lost a lot of planes that day,” he remembers.

Taylor also remembers how thankful he is for the lessons learned at

Brooks.

“The best advice I have is to know your airplane,” said the retired Air Force officer in describing aircraft capabilities and limitations.

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“ In those days we had no air refueling. The fuel you had was all that you got to fly your mission. ”

Robert Taylor  
Former Brooks Pilot